

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 10-22 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner made the restriction requirement final and therefore withdrew from consideration claims 1, 4-6 and 10-22. Applicants have now cancelled those claims without prejudice to pursue them in a divisional application. Claims 2 and 3 are amended to improve their readability and/or to define the invention with greater particularity. No new matter is added. Support for the amendment to claim 2 is found in the application at pages 3 and 4.

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fan (EP 0393676). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Although Fan discloses hollow spheres, these spheres are inert matter and are not melted by the actinic radiation. They provide the function of dissipating excess heat and thereby prevent boiling of the composition that is to be photohardened. See page 8, lines 42-57. The hollow spheres disclosed in Fan provide higher radiation deflection power (page 8, line 39); they should provide adequate heat capacity (8, line 44), and they should provide for less specific gravity (page 8, line 51-53). As such, in Fan, only the liquid around the targeted particles is hardened by the beam of energy (see page 3, line 40; page 4, line 56; and claim 1). The Examiner acknowledges this on page 4 of the Office action in the last sentence of paragraph "d)" ("[t]he said hollow spheres particles in the selected part will inherently become connected to each other due to the photohardening of the [selected] part by the actinic radiation..."). In contrast, claim 2 of the present application recites that the particles containing at least one cavity are themselves "induced to react or melted by the beam of energy or jet of liquid."

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Fan's disclosure of the use of hollow spheres is quite dissimilar from the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of claims 2 and 3.

Respectfully submitted,
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